

October 19, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

After four years of proudly representing the citizens of Federal Way as a Councilmember, it has come time for me to resign from service, effective December 31, 2016.

This resignation date equates to a normal four-year Council term. In my case, I was first appointed to fulfill the final year of another Councilmember's term, and was subsequently elected to the term I am currently serving.

Last year I began an exciting and demanding new job running a statewide aerospace association. Overseeing the important work of the association while contributing at a significant level to City Council over the past 15 months has been one of the most challenging—and rewarding—times of my career.

Even more recently, however, unexpected events in Federal Way have increased the number of special Council meetings, executive sessions, and the significant amount of time I already routinely dedicate to city issues outside of official meetings, such as a significant increase in one-on-one meetings with residents, phone calls, emails, and community events.

This decision has been difficult to make, but at this juncture, it is necessary in order for the residents of Federal Way to have the representation they deserve. My resignation provides an opportunity for my peers on Council to fill the last year of my term with an appointee that has the time to fulfill the duties of the position—hopefully at the same high level I did.

My goal in giving several months' notice is to allow my peers on Council to go through the notification-of-Council-vacancy process right away, if they so choose, in order to fill the position as soon as my resignation is effective. That way, there will be a full complement of Councilmembers on Council at all times.

In my final months on Council, there will be meetings I will have to miss due to scheduled travel. When possible, I will phone in to participate in the meetings.

It has been my pleasure to serve the citizens of Federal Way for the past four years. I consider it an honor to have been voted into this position, and I leave with a great deal of pride for our city. I am proud to call Federal Way home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Maloney".

Kelly Maloney
Federal Way City Council
Position 2

Background

I joined Council because I wanted to make a difference for Federal Way. I believe in this city, and I saw opportunities to make it better as it began growing. But, I also saw potential pitfalls I hoped we could avoid.

Over the years, I chose to approach my Council role by not only proposing and initiating projects or ideas, but also strategizing on, developing, creating, working on, and when possible, implementing, a number of initiatives for the betterment of the City of Federal Way. Some of these initiatives have come to fruition, others have been delayed for a variety of reasons.

This work resulted in the mayor naming me the “Council Lead on Economic Development,” the “Council Lead on Branding,” and the “Council Lead on the University Initiative.” Listed below are a few of the initiatives I have led and contributed to:

Economic Development Initiatives

Worked hand-in-hand with the mayor on several economic development initiatives over the years, slowly decreasing my role in this area over the past year-and-a-half.

Rebranding Initiative

Provided in-depth work on city rebranding as an outgrowth of my professional background. The project has been delayed many times. It is my hope the work that has been done thus far will be utilized as a foundation for the city’s new brand. The city can benefit from a differentiated and unique brand.

University Initiative

Proposed and initiated the concept at city hall; brought to the table as many as eight colleges and universities (including Washington State University, the University of Washington, Central Washington University, Parks Aeronautical College of St. Louis University, Highline Community College, Green River Community College, Gonzaga University, and DeVry University); worked directly with the Governor’s office, the state legislature, and private industry; and encouraged the mayor to conduct a Needs Assessment to move the initiative forward. The city is now ready to roll out the Needs Assessment to identified institutions of higher education that offer undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees. I am excited about the prospect of next steps.

Violence Prevention Coalition

Worked directly with three community members representing hundreds of concerned residents who wanted to bring forth the idea of a comprehensive coalition to identify causes of unprecedented violence and create solutions; the result of which is the Violence Prevention Coalition and the Violence Prevention Coalition Steering Committee. My vision to the mayor included working with other local municipalities and the King County Sheriff’s office, which has also been initiated.

Increase in Police Officer FTEs

For many years I have been focused on increasing the number of police officers in the city. This past year, I have been requesting funding for at least 10 additional positions—in line with Proposition One--Public Safety, which was approved by a majority vote of residents in 2008 and enacted through Council Ordinance at that time. Two weeks ago, the mayor announced he will support an increase of 9 police officers in the city budget.

IRG

The situation with IRG is unique. I have been dedicated to making sure the proposed development is done legally and goes through the proper processes, SEPA, and EIS, when applicable. Much of the work I have done on this has been research, raising questions, challenging the process—all behind the scenes—and communicating to the best of my ability with the public. Given Council has no legal authority to provide substantive action on this issue, as well as the city attorneys' recommendation that Council not share our views publicly, I believe I would better serve the community as a private citizen in respect to this issue.

PAEC

I am excited about the upcoming completion of the Performing Arts and Events Center. I have mixed feelings about funding for this controversial project. In the end, I voted for construction because staff stated we would have a better chance of getting New Markets Tax Credits (a funding source we were hoping to get) if Council were aligned. (With my vote, I stated publicly I would not support raising taxes—directly or indirectly—to pay for construction or ongoing operations of the PAEC. This remains my position.) Based on public comments by five other Councilmembers at the time, I knew it would pass, so I decided to align in the hopes of getting the funding. So far we have not received this funding, but we are told it is still a possibility. I have serious concerns about final construction funding and funding for ongoing operations. It has been my position for several years that the city would be better off by attracting a private partner for the PAEC (public/private partnership), selling the PAEC to a private entity, or having a third-party run it.

Methanol Plant

At my and another Councilmember's suggestion the city initiated a dialogue with Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma regarding the proposed methanol plant. This resulted in the City Council unanimously voting on an Ordinance requesting Federal Way's concerns be included in the Environmental Impact Study since many of our residents would potentially be negatively impacted should a causative event occur.

Term Limits

I have proposed City Council impose term limits on their positions. To date, there has been discussion regarding this suggestion, but it has not come to vote.

Chair—Land Use and Transportation Committee

As Chair of LUTC, I have proposed an Historic Preservation Ordinance, which is currently being researched by staff; a moratorium on multi-family housing, which is in effect; and lighting and cameras to be placed on the BPA trails for additional security, which staff is currently researching.